(ii) To discharge the liabilities of ITI to the tune of Rs. 2820 crores, to clean up the ITI balance sheet.

(iii) In principle decision to provide support of Rs. 180 crore to ITI for working capital margin.

Modernization of post offices

2116. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether after successful completing modernization of 500 post offices, mostly in rural areas, the Department has now decided to extend this ambitious project to 4500 more post offices across the country offering efficient services to customers through use of modern technology;

(b) whether Department will spend Rs. 900 crores for upgrading infrastructure of post offices giving them better connectivity through broadband and providing internet facilities to customers; and

(c) if so, the total number of post offices at present modernized and to what extent it has improved their efficiency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) No, Sir. However Department of Posts is extending the scheme "Project Arrow" to another 500 post offices across the country during 2009-10 with financial outlay of Rs. 65 crores.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Under project Arrow, Department of Posts has modernized 500 Post Offices in 2008-09 and is modernizing another 500 Post Offices in 2009-10 with a aim to improve the "Look and Feel" of the post offices and strengthen core business by providing quality services to customers within stipulated time. A significant quality important has been registered in core business after modernization of these post offices for e.g.. Money Order delivery has improved from 76% to 94.5% , Registered Mails delivery from 84% to 97.3%, Speed Post delivery from 89% to 98.2% and Ordinary Mail delivery from 97% to 99.7%.

Independent spectrum regulator

2117. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:
SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry wants an independent spectrum regulator to oversee all the related issues like allocation, pricing, monitoring and withdrawal of airwaves;